CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.    A method for graphically presenting data, said method

5  comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

a)    receiving said data, wherein said data comprises a plurality of

records, each record of said plurality of records having a plurality of

attributes;

b)    determining a first attribute selected from said plurality of

10  attributes, a second attribute selected from said plurality of attributes and a

third attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, wherein said first

attribute and said second attribute are different attributes of said plurality of

attributes;

c)    arranging said plurality of records to construct a graphically

15  displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of

data points, each of said data points representing one record of said

plurality of records wherein said first attribute corresponds to a first axis,

said second attribute corresponds to a second axis, and said third attribute

corresponds to a visual indicator.

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2.    A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c)

comprises the steps of:

c1)    sorting said plurality of records according to said first

attribute and dividing said plurality of records into groups according to

said first attribute;

c2)    sorting said records of each of said groups according to

5      said second attribute; and

c3)    sorting said records of each horizontal line of each of

said groups according to said third attribute.


3.    A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said third attribute is

10    different than both said first attribute and said second attribute.


4.    A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein each said data point is

represented by a pixel on a display, wherein a location of said pixel is

defined by said first attribute corresponding to said first axis and said

15    second attribute corresponding to said second axis.


5.    A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first axis is a

horizontal axis.


20     6.    A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second axis is a

vertical axis.

7.     A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

8.     A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein selection of one said

5    data point allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of a

corresponding said record.

9.     A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said selection of one

said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said data point to

10    access said plurality of attributes of said record.

10.    A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein selection of a subset

of data points allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of said records

corresponding to selected said data points.

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11.    A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein said selection of said

subset of said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said area to

access said plurality of attributes of said record.

20    12.    A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a display device coupled to said bus;

a computer-readable memory coupled to said bus; and

a processor coupled to said bus; said processor for executing a method for graphically presenting data, said method comprising the steps of:

a)      receiving said data, wherein said data comprises a plurality of

5      records, each record of said plurality of records having a plurality of attributes;

b)      determining a first attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, a second attribute selected from said plurality of attributes and a third attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, wherein said first

10      attribute and said second attribute are different attributes of said plurality of attributes;

c)      arranging said plurality of records to construct a graphically displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of data points, each of said data points representing one record of said

15      plurality of records wherein said first attribute corresponds to a first axis, said second attribute corresponds to a second axis, and said third attribute corresponds to a visual indicator.

13.      A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said step c)

20      comprises the steps of:

c1)      sorting said plurality of records according to said first attribute and dividing said plurality of records into groups according to said first attribute;

c2)    sorting said records of each of said groups according to said second attribute; and

c3)    sorting said records of each horizontal line of each of said groups according to said third attribute.

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14.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said third attribute is different than both said first attribute and said second attribute.

15.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein each said

10    data point is represented by a pixel on a display, wherein a location of said pixel is defined by said first attribute corresponding to said first axis and said second attribute corresponding to said second axis.

16.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said first

15    axis is a horizontal axis.

17.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

20    18.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

19.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein selection of one said data point allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of a corresponding said record.

5        20.    A computer system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said selection of one said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said data point to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

21.    A computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein selection of

10    a subset of data points allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of said records corresponding to selected said data points.

22.    A computer system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said selection of said subset of said data point is performed by moving a cursor

15    over said area to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

23.    A computer readable medium having a computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform the steps of:

20        a)    receiving data, wherein said data comprises a plurality of records, each record of said plurality of records having a plurality of attributes;

b)    determining a first attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, a second attribute selected from said plurality of attributes and a third attribute selected from said plurality of attributes, wherein said first attribute and said second attribute are different attributes of said plurality of

5    attributes;

c)    arranging said plurality of records to construct a graphically displayable array, said graphically displayable array comprising a plurality of data points, each of said data points representing one record of said plurality of records wherein said first attribute corresponds to a first axis,

10   said second attribute corresponds to a second axis, and said third attribute corresponds to a visual indicator.

24.   A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the steps of:

15   c1)   sorting said plurality of records according to said first attribute and dividing said plurality of records into groups according to said first attribute;

c2)   sorting said records of each of said groups according to said second attribute; and

20   c3)   sorting said records of each horizontal line of each of said groups according to said third attribute.

25. A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said third attribute is different than both said first attribute and said second attribute.

5      26. A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein each said data point is represented by a pixel on a display, wherein a location of said pixel is defined by said first attribute corresponding to said first axis and said second attribute corresponding to said second axis.

10      27. A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said first axis is a horizontal axis.

28. A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said second axis is a vertical axis.

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29. A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein said visual indicator is a color.

30. A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein

20      selection of one said data point allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of a corresponding said record.

31.    A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 30 wherein said selection of one said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said data point to access said plurality of attributes of said record.

5      32.    A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 24 wherein selection of a subset of data points allows for accessing said plurality of attributes of said records corresponding to selected said data points.

33.    A computer readable medium as recited in Claim 32 wherein
10    said selection of said subset of said data point is performed by moving a cursor over said area to access said plurality of attributes of said record.